

AMERICAN PEOPLE GAVE BIRTH TO LABOR DAY, SAYS FOUNDER

Samuel Gompers, President of American Federation of Labor, Gives Interesting Historical Facts In Connection With That Day In This Country

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Sept. 4.—Samuel Gompers, founder and president of the American Federation of Labor, gave out for publication today some interesting historical matter on the observance of Labor Day.

"Undoubtedly the first suggestion of setting apart a day in each year to be observed as Labor Day," said Mr. Gompers, "was conceived by the late P. J. McGuire, who was at that time secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. The suggestion occurred during the period when the Knights of Labor was in existence, P. J. McGuire being a member of that organization.

"Writing for the American Federationist in 1902 P. J. McGuire had this to say:

"Pagan feasts and Christian observances have come down to us through the long ages. But it was reserved for this country, and for the American People, to give birth to Labor Day. In this they honor the toilers of the earth, and pay homage to those who from rude nature have delved and carved all the comfort and grandeur we behold.

"More than all, the thought, the conception, yes, the very inspiration of this holiday came from men in the ranks of the working people, men active in uplifting their fellows and leading them to better conditions. It came from a little group in New York City, the Central Labor Union, which had just been formed, and which in later years attained widespread influence.

"On May 8, 1882, the writer made the proposition. He urged the propriety of setting aside one day in the year to be designated as 'Labor Day,' and to be established as a general holiday for the laboring classes. He advised the day should first be celebrated by a street parade, which would publicly show the strength and esprit du corps of the trade and labor organizations. Next the parade should be followed by a picnic or a festival in some grove, the proceeds of the same to be divided on this semi-co-operative plan."

"It was further argued Labor Day should be observed as one festival day in the year for public tribute to the genius of the American industry. There were other worthy holidays representative of the religious, civil and military spirit. But none representative of the industrial spirit, the great vital force of every nation. He suggested the first Monday in September of every year for such a holiday, as it would come at the most pleasant season of the year nearly midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving and would fill a wide gap in the chronology of legal holidays. Many were the cogent reasons he advanced and at once the idea was enthusiastically embraced.

"The first Labor Day parade and festival of the Central Labor Union of New York City on September 5, 1882 was simply an imposing success. From that day on, it became a fixed institution in the United States observed today in every city of the land. The plan was next endorsed by the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, and the general assembly of the Knights of Labor. It spread rapidly from city to city and from town to town. City councils and State legislatures took it up and made it a legal holiday, until finally, June 28, 1894, it became a national holiday by Act of Congress.

"The initial action taken setting apart one day in the year on which to review the activities and beneficial influence of Organized Labor occurred at the afternoon meeting of the third day of the fourth annual session of the Federation, October 9, 1884, the convention being held in Schloesser's Hall, Chicago, Illinois. The resolution creating Labor Day was introduced in the convention by A. C. Cameron, a delegate from the Chicago Trades and Labor Assembly, and was as follows:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage-earners, irrespective of sex, calling, or nationality."

"W. J. Hammond, representing the International Typographical Union, from New Orleans, La., was president of this convention. The accredited delegates to this convention numbered only twenty-six.

"The Federation held its annual convention at Columbus, O., December 8-12, 1886. At this session the officers reported the following: Independence Day."

"At the fourth session of the Federation a resolution was adopted making the first Monday in September of each year labor's national holiday, and recommending its observance by wage workers generally throughout the country. This met with response that exceeded the most sanguine expectations. In our great manufactur-

ing and distributing centers thousands of workmen marched in procession and participated in the festivities of the picnic grounds, where the most skilled mechanics and workers in professions and laborers united in a common celebration, exchanging friendly fraternal greetings while they listened to the champions of labor discussing the economic and political questions of the day. The good effects of this are so well understood that we recommend its more general observance still, until it shall be as uncommon for a man to work on that day as on Independence Day."

"In order that there be no misunderstanding with reference to the action of Congress in enacting legislation upon this subject it is well to state that the law passed by Congress on June 28, 1894, described above, as making Labor Day a national holiday only provided that Labor Day should be observed in the District of Columbia, as well as the then territories.

"Nearly all of the States in the Union now have statutes making the first Monday in September a legal holiday, thus observing Labor Day.

Mr. Gompers will speak at Marion, Ill., on Labor Day. The invitation to speak there was extended to him over a year ago, and one of the chief reasons that determined him to accept that invitation was that Marion is in a mining center and afforded him an opportunity to speak to a large number of miners, an opportunity that President Gompers has had only once before in several years.

About half a dozen of the neighboring cities will join with Marion in the Labor Day celebration and will also participate in the parade. The addresses by labor speakers other than Mr. Gompers will be made by Miss Agnes Nestor, National President of the Glove Workers; Miss Agnes Burns, representative of the Women's Union Label League of New York, and Frank Farrington, State President of the United Mine Workers of Illinois.

Secretary Frank M. Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, will speak at Bloomington, Ill.

COMMISSION ENDS BOUNDARY SURVEY

North Carolina-Tennessee Line Is Fixed By Supreme Court Body

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Asheville, Sept. 4.—No longer is there any cause for doubt as to the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee, the commission recently named by the Supreme Court of the United States to survey and mark it, having completed the task. The members of the commission held a meeting here last night at which they made up their report for submission within the near future.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court was a decisive victory for North Carolina and this State, as a result of the ruling of the country's highest tribunal, becomes the possessor of thousands of acres of valuable timber lands. Poplar, cherry, and ash abound in the area whose ownership has been in dispute for many years past, while game of many kinds is found on the property.

The commission was composed of Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill, D. B. Burns, of Asheville, and W. D. Hale, of Madisonville, Tenn. These three men have been kept busy placing markers of stone along the boundary line, although their work has been done in such a manner as to assure the permanency of their operations. The stone markers will stand for centuries to point out the beginning of North Carolina's lands and the starting of Tennessee's possessions.

WOMAN DIES AT 107, WEIGHED 25 POUNDS

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Sept. 4.—Mrs. Jeannette Schwartz, who died last night in the Brooklyn Home for the Aged, in her 107th year, established a record, it is believed for longevity among dwarfs. She was two and a half feet high and weighed less than 25 pounds. Her birth place was Stuttgart, Germany.

At least four-fifths of the damage wrought by earthquakes is due to the neglect of the ordinary requirements of sound construction.

GREAT RESOURCES OF TURKEY LITTLE REALIZED BY PEOPLE

Constantinople Banker Gives Associated Press Correspondent Data On Needs of Country If Outcome of War Favors Sultan; Halt In Exploitation Would Reap Great Benefits

(By the Associated Press.)

Constantinople, Sept. 4.—A banker of considerable prominence in Constantinople has given the Associated Press correspondent some idea of what may be accomplished in Turkey in event of the war having a favorable outcome for the Turks. Although the banker stipulated that his name should not be used at this time, his position and knowledge of the country are such that his statements, even appearing anonymously, may be considered as of unusual importance.

Discussing the essentials that would make Turkey a strong and self-contained political unit after the war, he said at the outset that what Turkey needed today most was an economic policy that would leave something for coming generations. In other words, exploitation would have to cease.

Great Resources.

"The undeveloped resources of the Ottoman empire are enormous," he continued. "Turkey, for instance, could meet the entire grain shortage of Europe, if its soil were adequately tilled and marketing facilities provided. Turkey could supply all of Europe with fruit, and ship fully one-half of the meat now imported by European countries from South and North America, Australia and New Zealand. The intelligent cultivation of cotton would place Turkey next to the United States as a producer of the staple. The olive oil industry could be increased a thousand times. More wool could be exported. Ports of Anatolia and Syria are especially suited for the raising of plants of great medicinal value. Even coal of fair value could be shipped to the Mediterranean countries."

Before any of these things could be made possible, however, said the banker, the Ottoman government would have to realize that a stable economic policy was necessary. Some of the Young Turks had already arrived at such a conclusion, but little had been done even by them, he asserted.

"But we must be patient. It is hardly two years now since the Turks themselves have taken to work. Up to that time the Turks held the erroneous notion that work was not particularly ennobling, that work after all, was for others—Kurds and Armenians. With the Turks holding the reins of government, this view could lead but to one result—a total lack of sound economic thought. Whatever was done had the meeting of immediate needs as its objective. Exploitation of a most ruthless nature ensued. Under this system the splendid forests of Turkey were destroyed; the peasant was taxed to death and given no opportunity to improve either himself or his land; honest investors were kept out of the country, with the result that Turkey today has no industries, and is obliged even to ship its olive oil to Italy for refinement. The absence of all economic understanding on the part of those in power under the old regime was appalling. Those wishing to establish themselves in some industry or business in Turkey were usually asked to pay for the privilege in the form of a bribe to some official.

Conditions Better.

"Already conditions have improved, but there is much room for betterment yet. But I am not one of those who maintain, maliciously, I think, that the Turk is constitutionally averse to progress. He simply does not, as a rule, understand that what may benefit others, will benefit him. The Turk is suspicious of all strangers, he is also covetous enough to envy the foreigner whose skill and enterprise lead to success. He does not understand that a similar qualification and exertion on his own part would produce a like result.

"Such a condition could have but one result, the stagnation one finds in all parts of the Ottoman empire. Religion has nothing to do with that. I have many Turkish friends who enjoy material well-being along with their religion, and I am quite sure that the Anatolian peasant is capable of relishing both caviare and vaudeville, if he could but secure them."

Needs Railways.

"Turkey needed a rapid extension of its railroad system," said the banker. "It needed more roads, though paradoxical as it might seem. Turkey had never had so many good roads as had been built during the war. Then, the peasant would have to be trained and relieved from much of the petty interference he is still subject to. Commerce ought to be given the opportunity of developing under the impetus of unrestricted competition. Manufacture should be placed beyond the reach of governmental interference, with the control left entirely to the circumstance that Turkey, as an open market, would always enjoy the price regulation resulting from competition between the home and foreign manufacture."

Among other informants, the correspondent found some who held that

Turkey was incapable of formulating a sound economic policy; elsewhere the opinion that improvement was discernible and that more could be looked for.

"No Turkish government has yet gone to the trouble of training men in economics, or giving the few Turks, so trained, a chance of applying their knowledge," said one authority. "I doubt very much whether the first principle of economics is understood by a quarter of the men who serve in the departments dealing with economic matters in the Ottoman empire. It is all a question of ignorance—ignorance on the part of the men who manage affairs they do not understand, ignorance on the part of those who permit them to occupy such positions. Economic questions in Turkey are not settled from the viewpoint of the aggregate, but from that of individualism.

Start Necessary.

"It is all a matter of getting the thing started. I know that all Turkey is ready to start anew, and start right. I know also that a sound economic policy would reconcile the Greek and Armenian, who, even if they do not always adhere to such a policy themselves, know its value better than do the Turks, whose position of governor has really never made the absence of a sound economic policy felt to them.

"How will the abolition of the capitulations effect the getting of money for Turkey in the future," was asked of another banker.

"That depends upon what measures are taken by the Turkish government to protect the foreign investor," replied the banker. "I believe that Turkey would have no difficulty getting all the money she needs, provided it can establish beyond all doubt that the Ottoman laws and courts will ensure equity to all concerned. If that cannot be established, then Turkey will find no money, especially after this war when home needs will make first call upon the funds of investors. I cannot say that people with money to invest have had much reason to have confidence in Ottoman law and jurisprudence in the past. But that might be overcome if the Turkish government could be persuaded to establish some superior court of commerce—a body whose duty it would be to adjudicate all disputes between foreign investors on the one hand and Turkish individuals and the government on the other."

Foreigners Hurtful.

Industries established by foreigners under the capitulations had been no blessing to Turkey, said this man, citing in proof thereof the abuses of which a paper mill operated by Austrians is said to have been guilty. The rights granted under the capitulation had in this case stifled foreign competition, and had given rise to a monopoly whose sole aim, it was alleged, was to sell the poorest product at the highest price.

"With the capitulations no longer operative, Turkey will have to convince the world, more so the foreign investor, that the abolition of these special privileges will in nowise endanger their interests. That, however, must be done, and can be done. No foreigner in Turkey has come to grief since the capitulations were cancelled. The Turkish government has handled the situation splendidly, and will continue to do so, I believe."

Want Experts.

Another prominent man thought that the Turkish government would do well to attach to the departments concerned with economic matters a commission of economic experts, whose duty it would be to instruct rather than advise. He, too, was of the opinion that unfamiliarity with the subject, rather than an inclination to act wrongly, was responsible for many of the economic mistakes made in the past. Nothing could be done, however, so long as the Turks were averse to trusting foreigners, for which attitude there had been some justification in the past.

"The Turks take the very reasonable position that if their country is to be exploited, they would just as soon do it themselves," said this man. "The grounds for Turkish mistrust of the foreigners are many, unfortunately. Turkey has been 'missioned' and 'commissioned' so often by incompetents and knaves that more experience of that sort seems superfluous."

MISSION DELEGATES SPEND DAY ON OUTING

Henderson, Sept. 4.—The annual reunion of the Woman's Missionary Societies of the Tar River Baptist Association Wednesday convened in the First Baptist church of Henderson.

Among the speakers were Miss Gertrude Abernathy, of Vance county, who is a returned missionary from China; Miss Briggs, the State leader of the Sunbeam Band and Miss Jones, vice-president of the State Woman's Missionary Union.